



Armed Forces Marketing Council

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G. R. ROWAN

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December 21, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RE: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Armed Forces Marketing Council, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to defeat proposed new regulations that would impose new charges on enhanced pre-paid calling cards, and in so doing, place an unjust burden on our service members and their families.

Our country is at war. Our military is deployed on the other side of the world, protecting us, and fighting for our freedom. Now is not the time or place for any phone company to demand increased access rates on pre-paid cards that are essentially the only means available to members of the Armed Forces to speak with their families. This proposal to require higher fees for pre-paid calling cards is unconscionable.

Ninety-five percent of military personnel use pre-paid calling cards which account for over a billion precious minutes of calls between our troops and their families and friends each year. In short, pre-paid calling cards are the life-line for our military men and women stationed abroad who depend on affordable means of communication with loved ones back home.

If there is one thing on which policy makers from every end of the political spectrum agree, it is the need to make life easier – not more difficult – for our military. It is in this regard that we hope you and the Commissioners will show common sense and heed the pleas of thousands of families that this plan will negatively impact, by denying any increase in access fees for pre-paid calling cards.

Sincerely,

G. R. Rowan
President

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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